IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-17 without prejudice, and add new Claims 18-40 as follows.

1. – 17. [Cancelled]

18. A telecommunication impedance blocking filter circuit, comprising:

at least one input terminal;

at least one output terminal;

a first filter stage disposed in electrical series between said at least one input and output terminals;

a second filter stage disposed in electrical series with said first filter stage, said second stage comprising a capacitor and switch disposed in series with at least one another; and

a third filter stage disposed in electrical series with said second filter stage.

19. The filter circuit of Claim 18, further comprising a fourth filter stage disposed in electrical series with said third filter stage, said fourth stage being adapted to reduce return loss.

20. The filter circuit of Claim 19, wherein said fourth stage comprises at least one R-L-C tank circuit.

21. The filter circuit of Claim 18, wherein said switch is actuated in response to at least DC loop current.

22. The filter circuit of Claim 21, wherein said at least DC loop current is generated in response to an off-hook transient.

23. The filter circuit of Claim 18, wherein said switch comprises a reed switch.

24. The filter circuit of Claim 18, further comprising a second switch disposed within one of said first, second or third filter stages.

25. The filter circuit of Claim 25, wherein at least one said inductive windings is disposed within a tank circuit, said tank circuit being disposed in electrical series with said first, second and third stages.

26. The filter circuit of Claim 18, further comprising a suppression circuit disposed in electrical series with said first, second, and third filter stages.

27. The filter circuit of Claim 26, wherein said suppression circuit comprises at least one capacitor adapted to attenuate any voltage spikes that are generated due to on-hook or off-hook transients.

28. The filter circuit of Claim 18, further comprising a suppression circuit disposed within one of said first, second, and third filter stages.

29. A telecommunications filter circuit, comprising:

first and second input terminals;

first and second output terminals;

at least first and second inductors disposed in electrical series between said first input and first output terminals;

at least third and fourth inductors disposed in electrical series between said second input and second output terminals; and

at least one switch inductively coupled to at least one of said first and third inductors, said switch disposed in electrical series with at least one capacitor between first and second common points, said common points being in electrical series with said first and second output terminals, respectively.

30. The filter circuit of Claim 29, further comprising fifth and sixth inductors disposed in electrical series with said first and second inductors, and third and fourth inductors, respectively, said fifth and sixth inductors being adapted to reduce return loss.

31. The filter circuit of Claim 30, wherein said fifth and sixth inductors are part of respective ones of R-L-C tank circuits.

32. The filter circuit of Claim 29, wherein said at least one switch is actuated in response to at least DC loop current.

33. The filter circuit of Claim 32, wherein said at least DC loop current is generated in response to an off-hook transient.

34. The filter circuit of Claim 29, further comprising at least one second switch disposed in electrical parallel with said at least one switch and said at least one capacitor.

35. The filter circuit of Claim 29, wherein said at least first and third inductors are disposed within respective ones of tank circuits, said tank circuits being disposed in electrical series with said first and second inductors, and said third and fourth inductors, respectively.

36. A telecommunication impedance blocking filter circuit, comprising:

at least one input terminal;

at least one output terminal;

a first filter stage disposed in electrical series between said at least one input and output terminals;

a second filter stage disposed in electrical series with said first filter stage, said second stage comprising a capacitor and switch disposed in series with at least one another; and

a suppression circuit disposed in electrical series with said first and second filter stages, said suppression circuit being adapted to suppress voltage transients occurring within said filter circuit as the result of an on-hook to off-hook, or off-hook to on-hook, transient.

37. The filter circuit of Claim 36, further comprising a third filter stage having at least first and second tank circuits.

38. The filter circuit of Claim 36, wherein one of said first and second filter stages comprises at least first and second tank circuits.

39. A telecommunications circuit comprising:

first and second circuit paths disposed substantially in electrical parallel to one another between respective sets of inputs and output terminals, said first and second circuit paths each comprising a plurality of inductive elements;

a capacitor and switch disposed in series with at least one another, said capacitor and switch being disposed electrically between said first and second circuit paths; and

a suppression circuit disposed electrically between said first and second circuit paths, said suppression circuit being adapted to suppress voltage transients occurring within said filter circuit as the result of an on-hook to off-hook, or off-hook to on-hook, transient.

40. A telecommunications circuit comprising:

first and second circuit paths disposed substantially in electrical parallel to one another between respective sets of inputs and output terminals, said first and second circuit paths each comprising a plurality of inductive elements; and

a capacitor and switch disposed in series with at least one another, said capacitor and switch being disposed electrically between said first and second circuit paths said switch being responsive to DC loop current generated within said filter circuit when a device connected thereto goes off-hook.